In The Martlet Vol. 16, No. 22

Free

Turkey

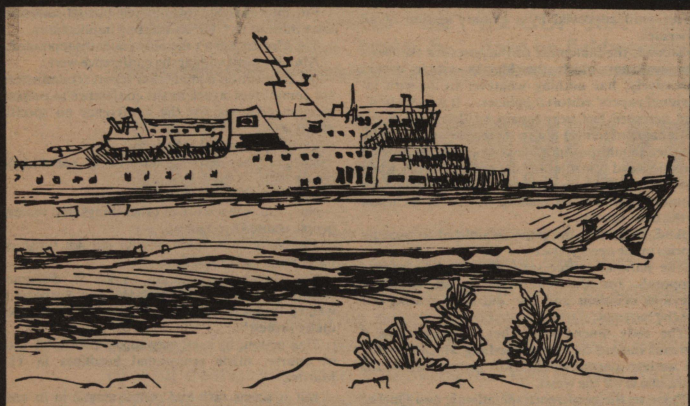
Victoria, January 27, 1977

This REVIEW is printed in Urdu, Kurdish and Ladino.

Year of Expansion

OFFICIAL ORGAN
OF THE WESTERN REGION
OF CANADIAN
UNIVERSITY PRESS

DEBATE RAGES OVER RELEVANCE OF "REVISIONIST" TACTICS OF MARTLET



"LONG LIVE THE SPIRIT OF THE GOOD SHIP 'QUEEN OF VICTORIA' ON WHICH THE TIRELESS FIGHTERS OF THE JANUARY SECOND MOVEMENT RETURNED TO VANCOUVER ISLAND TO FURTHER THE ARDUOUS STRUGGLE AGAINST IMPERIALIST EXPANSIONISM"

JANUARY 2nd MOVEMENT SLAMS RAILROAD BUILDING

CUP heartily enters process of revolutionary self-criticism

ILLUSTRIOUS PRESIDENT RANKIN ON ORGANIZATION OF THOUGHTS

SMIRNOW URGES FUNCTIONAL PRIORIZATION

The spring Western Regional CUP conference will be held in Calgary February 18, 19, 20 (That's Friday to Sunday.)

It will be hosted by the Gauntlet. More information will be forthcoming from the Gauntlet if it isn't included in this Turkey.

BRING:

Your budgets, editorial policies, headline charts, job descriptions, ad rate cards, story list forms, etc. etc.

The Gauntlet is trying to make xerox facilities available, which means you'll be able to duplicate copies of anything you find useful.

Anyone who attended the 39th national conference in Vancouver will know that we have to have a lot of discussion between now and the next plenary in March.

Delegates at the national conference failed to reach a strong consensus on the future direction of the organization. Proposals for the implementation of regional bureaus were discussed at length, but a number of reservations emerged.

Some of these were concerned with the cost of the additional bureaus. Some with whether they should handle news or technical assistance. Others with whether bureaus would improve the quality of news in our papers.

The main problem with the conference, as was pointed out during the roll call discussion on the last day, was the apparent lack of a co-operative spirit and the lack of serious attempts to come to an agreement satisfactory to all or most of the papers.

There is a strong feeling for the need for regional bureaus. There is also a strong fear of over-extending ourselves financially. There is some dissatisfaction with the Statement of Principles of the organization.

At the 39.5 conference in March, delegates have to get further than they did in Vancouver in terms of reaching some basic agreements. Otherwise this organization will remain fragmented and ineffective. If we want to avoid that, we'll have to arrive at 39.5 with a calm, co-operative and reasonable approach. It will also help if we've discussed the substantive issues at some length before the conference - both on our staffs and at the regionals.

The following is an attempt to initiate some of that discussion:

The agenda for 39.5 should be out in the House Organ, soon if not already. It's broad outlines were worked out after the conference in Vancouver and go something like this: (if we stick to one topic at a time, we might get somewhere)

1) THE GOALS AND PURPOSES OF CUP.

A few papers have expressed serious misgivings about the Statement of Principles of CUP and the Statement of Purposes for the News Service.

Their contention (Martlet and Queen's Journal) is that the current definition of CUP's purpose should not be political (The "Agent of Social Change" clause), but journalistic.

Read: The CUP Statement of Principles (In your CUP Editor's Manual)

The Statement of Purposes for the News Service (On the back of the News Service cover)

The CUP Code of Ethics (In CUP Editor's Manual)

The Queen's Journal motion for a different Statement of Principles.

If the discussion over the goals and purposes can be discussed **before** we get into expansion and the role of bureaus, things will be a lot less confused. The Statement of Purposes and Principles should either be re-affirmed, replaced or amended. Submitting some concrete proposals for amendments to the regional would be a productive approach for anyone wanting to see changes.

2) CUP EXPANSION: The Fantasies.

What we would **like** the organization to look like, problems of financing aside, and goals and purposes hopefully settled by the previous discussion. (Financing and implementation to be discussed in detail later, after we get a broad picture of where we are trying to head.)

Some questions that need to be addressed:

Do we want to move toward regional bureaus? What do we want the bureaus to do? (IE compile an ideal list of functions the bureau could provide if we had enough financing to pay for the people power to do it.)

READ: The Functions of a Regional Bureau from the 38th conference minutes for a list of functions, Change, or add or delete functions.

(Later these functions will have to be priorized, of course. But here, we are only at the stage of creating a shopping list to choose from once we determine our household budget.)

Do we want to move toward hiring reporters for the organization (a la national affairs reporter, educational affairs reporter, quebec reporter)? In principle, only. Is it a good or bad idea for something to strive towards?

How will bureaus interact? Who sets the priorities: the region, the national conference, or both? If both, what aspects of the bureau operation does the national conference set and which does the region set?

3)CUP EXPANSION: The realities

If we can come to some agreement on where we are aiming, we can get down to discussing specific plans for next year. (If we can't we'll need some compromises or we'll have to split into a number of different organizations.)

How much can we afford?-(IE set a fee structure.)

Given that amount, what do we want to implement?

People should discuss these questions seriously and be prepared to discuss them more at the plenary. If every paper (or even a significant number) comes to the plenary with a fixed and immovable position, we'll get nowhere again.

And that means wasting a lot of money. A conference, even a special plenary with only one delegate per paper, costs plenty. Probably over $20,000 for this one. That money could be far better spent providing important services if it was put in next year's budget.

This isn't an argument for rubber-stamping increases in the CUP budget. It is an argument for serious discussion both before and at the conference and for a co-operative attitude instead of an entrenched or obstructionist one at conferences.

Nick Smirnow

MARTLET STATEMENT ON JANUARY 2nd MOVEMENT'S ACTIONS PUBLISHED JAN. 13

Following a dramatic final meeting of the Canadian University Press (CUP) 39th annual conference January 2, **The Martlet** delegation walked out declaring the paper to be 'a member under protest' of the organization.

The Martlet found itself to be in strong opposition to the current CUP statement of principles, with its National Office's plans for massive and expensive expansion and to what were viewed as 'railroading' tactics by the chairman throughout the seven-day Vancouver meeting.

On the issue of CUP's statement of principles and the statement of purposes for its news service, this newspaper is seriously considering withdrawal from the national student newspaper organization if the statments are not changed.

[continued on 2]

...from 1

Partly as a result of the Martlet walkout, CUP has agreed to hold another conference in Winnipeg in March to deal with matters they attempted to scuttle in Vancouver.

CUP's statement of purposes for its news service, reports from which appear regularly in **The Martlet**, describes the organization as 'an agent of social change' which 'must...use its national news service to provide Canadian students with information and analysis of the capitalist economic system in which we all live, and to assist students in mobilizing against that system where it is found to be preserving the class stucture' etc.

While no particular fan of the capitalist system in which we all live, **The Martlet** finds the current statements to be an improper attempt to dictate the individual editorial policies of member papers by the National Office.

We believe CUP should be an organization which exchanges technical information, helps member papers whose editorial independence is threatened by **any** group and which provides a fair, and wherever possible, unbiased news service.

An alternative statement of principles presented by **The Martlet** and several other papers was not dealt with at the meeting.

That statement called for CUP not to associate itself with any interest group or promote the interests of any group.

'CUP will have no purpose other than...to produce unbiased, clear and fearless reports of the facts for member papers. Those reports will contain only demonstrable facts, backed up by sources. Conflicting sided will be given balanced, objective treatment as far as is humanly possible.

'Well supported ciriticism is also desirable as long as such material is recognized and clearly marked as being something more than a simple presentation of the facts.

'CUP recognizes and supports the rights of member papers to develop and maintain their own editorial policies free from interference from student governments, other governments and the national organization itself.'

The Martlet also objected to plans for a huge budget increase, 79 per cent in 1974-75, which would be accompanied by a corresponding raise in fees.

We believe CUP's expansion policies are ultimately suicidal and must be carried out in a far more restrained manner.

During a strongly-worded statement on both issues in the final session of the conference—which described the national office as "venally careerist" and called for an end to 'interpretation masquerading as news'—**The Martlet** was cut off by the chair and shouted down by supporters of the national office.

The remarks were made during a diversionary discussion pushed through by the executive to block a mushrooming anti-expansion movement at the meeting.

A letter describing our position in CUP was cut off by the chair.

At that time, **The Martlet** delegation left the meeting leaving a proxy vote with representatives of Waterloo University's **Free Chevron**— a paper **The Martlet** disagrees with politically but which agreed with our position on expansion.

Our letter was later read to the convention at the insistance of **Free Chevron** delegates.

David Climenhaga

January 2nd Movement co-leader David Climenhaga earlier in the revolutionary struggle.

OBSTRUCTIONISM MUST CEASE

EXCERPTS FROM SPEECH BY JANUARY 2nd LEADER

The only railroad we approve of is the Esquimalt and Nanaimo. What we have seen in the last hour is a classic example of purposeful lack of communication and deliberate obstructionism by a venally careerist national office staff.

However, we will co-operate as best we can with this cheap shuck:

Even though we know the national staff will play loose and fast with whatever findings they choose to "interpret" as having come from this discussion.

Our statement on politics in CUP is extracted from our statement in favor of a revision of statement of principles for the news service:

The Martlet stands in hearty agreement with this motion.

We do not believe this national organization -- or any other, be it provincial, federal or student -- should presume to determine what the editorial policy of a student newspaper should be.

We believe that such a decision is for the editors and staff of each paper to make **alone**. We have always operated on that basis and always will.

Yet the present CUP statement of purposes indicates otherwise -- it amounts to a **de facto** attempt by the CUP organization to take our right to decide our own editorial direction away from us. And each news service packet we receive that contains interpretation of events masquarading as **news** reminds us of this fact.

We do not believe such a situation should be allowed to continue.

Some may argue that this proposed statement of purposes will reduce CUP to "just another Canadian Press network." CUP will never be another CP -- it exists to transmit news of special interest to students and news not available through other networks for whatever reasons.

But it must cover that news fairly and accurately. Any attempt to serve any cause by twisting the facts we report should not be the purpose of this organization.

And what better way to influence just social change in Canada and the world than by telling the truth accurately and fairly? If the causes we support are just, we can only harm them by warping the facts to fit our short term aims. When our manipulations are discovered -- and they inevitably will be -- our remaining credibility will be blown away

The route to a better world, if such a thing is possible, is through fearless presentation of the truth -- that is our duty as journalists.

Some will argue that objectivity is impossible, so why attempt it? That may be so, but **fairness** is possible and we believe that is what the news service must strive for. If it is impossible to always present things in the most objective manner, that does not make it desirable to totally corrupt ourselves in the name of a just cause.

If the Canadian Press is sometimes less than fair, if dialy newspapers sometimes express the facts less honestly than they outh to; that should not make us think CUP should warp the facts in the other direction to satisfy some perverse concept of fair play.

How cany any journalist who takes pride in that title, who takes pride in his or her work, allow any other situation to exist than the honest and complete presentation of fact. As student journalists, that is our job and, as a student news service, that is CUP's job.

Finally, we do not and cannot support the bonapartism of certain jet-setters and gold-brickers and certain organizations, nor the self-seeking expansionist dreams of the CUP elite.

Following this statement the Martlet delegation attempted to read a letter outlining our position as a "member under protest" of the organization. We were cut off by the chair and the delegation walked out of the meeting. Disgruntled members of the McGill Daily staff, supporters of the National Office to a man, er, person, approached Free Chevron staffers and asked: "Wucha gonna do now, form da 2nd of January Movement?" We did.

Climenhaga/Thomson/Simons

COMRADES GRAVELY INSULTED

Some members of the Canadian University Press (CUP) have 'gravely insulted' the People's Republic of China, according to the Chinese consul in Vancouver.

During its annual conference last month, CUP, the national student newspaper press service, used the facilities of the Sheraton 500 Hotel, in which the consulate is located. After delegates left January 2, it was discovered that a bronze wall plaque identifying the ninth-floor offices of the consulate was missing.

A greatly piqued consul contacted the RCMP, all levels of federal government, and even Peking.

RCMP Sgt. John Barr, currently responsible for the case, has called for a quiet return of the plaque.

He suggested that the thief "turn it over to the local RCMP, mail it to us without a return address, anything," in order to avoid an international incident.

"The Chinese take this very

[continued on 4]

MARTLET STAND AND INTEGRITY CRITICIZED BY CUP FIELDWORKER

To the Martlet:

Fearless reporting, it seems, doesn't have to be factual and unbiased.

I refer to the Martlet's treatment of the recent Canadian University Press conference that screamed across the front page of your first issue this term: **Martlet pullout from CUP possible.**

Much as I like the David and Goliath parable and hate to spoil a good adventure story, I have to respond to some factual inaccuracies and grossly misleading interpretations in that article.

1]**"The Martlet finds the current [statement of principles and statement of purposed for the News Service] to be an improper attempt to dictate the individual editorial policies of member papers by the National Office."**

How utterly absurd!

In the first place, the National Office has nothing to do with it.

They are simply staff people with executive duties elected at each annual national conference for one year terms. Aside from compiling the twice weekly news service, keeping the books of the organization and other details assigned them by the delegates at the conference, their job as executive is to carry out the policies and priorities of the organization.

Those policies and priorities are decided by the membership of CUP: delegates from about 70 student newspapers across Canada, including the Martlet.

National Office staff can, and are sometimes directed to make policy proposals, but none are in effect until approved by a plenary session of all delegates.

Second, the Statement of Purposes for the News Service from which the Martlet article quotes extensively, has nothing whatever to do with individual papers' editorial policies. It was drafted and accepted last year (again by delegates to the national conference) not to dictate what stories the Martlet should put in its next issue, but to provide direction and priorities for the national office when working on the news service and as a guideline for member papers when sending stories for inclusion in the news service.

And, of course, no paper is obliged to use any stories in the news service.

The national office staff **did** prepare concrete proposals for the conference based on these previous decisions and also did some costing out for the bureaus.

The only amendments they suggested was 5 bureaus instead of four (something which virtually all western papers would insist on anyway — the extra one is for the west).

Prior to the conference the atlantic and Quebec papers had met and endorsed the addition of bureaus to the CUP budget. This too was independent of the national office.

Another expansion proposal was for a full time reporter in Quebec city to cover the events in Quebec surrounding the important upcoming separation referendum. That proposal was brought by the Quebec papers and not the national office.

I think it amply fair to say the Martlet article oversimplifies the events at the conference into a simple battle between national office "supporters" and "opponents".

3) The article refers to: **"..a diversionary discussion pushed through by the executive to block a mushrooming anti-expansion movement".**

This is a fine example of a passage that should have been marked "as being something more than a simple presentation of the facts".

First of all, the paper by paper discussion wasn't, as the article implies, the idea of the same national office who we previously found stuffing "their" expansion program down people's throats.

It was in fact, suggested by next year's executive who had just been elected at the same conference but did not yet hold any office. In fact their official status was nil.

Second, the discussion was not "pushed through", it was approved by the delegates with **more** that the two thirds required to amend the agenda. It would indeed be hard for a group of people with absolutely no official status to impose their will on the conference.

Third, it is questionable whether the discussion was "diversionary". It came on the last day of the conference, in fact, after we were supposed to be out of the hotel.

It was abundantly clear that an impasse had been reached:

Some delegates wanted regional bureaus to concentrate on news exchange. Some wanted them to concentrate on research. Others wanted technical and organizational emphasis.

2) The article says: **"The Martlet found itself to be in strong opposition to ...its National Office's plans for massive expansion..."**

The plans for expansion are NOT the National Office's.

The current Ottawa staff took office AFTER the 1975 Christmas conference and the March 1976 special conference where the proposals for expanding CUP services and staff were approved by delegates.

At those conferences, delegates, including the Martlet's representative decided that few papers were getting what they wanted out of CUP. News exchange was slow, fieldworkers couldn't coverall the papers that needed technical or organizational help. They decided it would be better to pay higher fees for good results than to continue paying low fees for generally inadequate results.

The plan developed at those conferences was threefold:

First, to increase the number of fieldworkers in the vast western and Ontario regions, something the western papers had been arguing for two previous conferences.

Second, to add staff to the Ottawa (national) office to provide a better mail, telex, and information service.

Third, to institute smell regional bureaus across Canada.

(With the increasing number of CUP papers — now close to 70 — it was obviously impossible for one office to keep in close contact with papers on a regular basis. The regional bureaus, it was anticipated, would exchange news stories between the papers in the region and to and from the rest of the country much quicker and more thoroughly, as well as providing more accessible technical and organizational help and acting as a fieldworker dispatch centre.)

The fieldworking and some national office staff additions were made at the March conderence for the current academic year. The remainder were left for this year's conference to consider for next year.

Delegates felt that doing everything in one jump would be too quick and too expensive. (As it was, the 76-77 budget was double the $50,000 75-76 budget.)

The March conference did set up two experimental regional bureaus in Quebec and B.C. (the latter of which the Martlet has made considerable use of.)

The bulk of what was called "expansion" at the recent Vancouver conference consisted of the costs of the regional bureaus.

The important point is that all these decisions were made not by the national office, but by the delegates at last year's conferences.

Some liked bureaus, but not the Quebec reporter. Some liked everything but thought it was impossible to finance. Some liked some of the expansion, but wanted to talk about the Statement of Principles and / or Purposes. And some felt they were being railroaded because people who had attended the previous conferences seemed to have their minds made up.

But the problem was not the diversity of opinion, it was the obvious lack of a co-operative spirit and this theme did emerge as each paper took its three minutes to comment on how the conference had gone.

Rather than calmly assessing papers' wants, needs, and finances and coming to a compromise solution, the conference had degenerated into a lobbying battle between people who were for expansion and those who were agin it.

It would say the discussion was a much-needed one to assess the lack of progress of the conference and re-establish some measure of trust and good feeling, not a "diversionary discussion pushed through...to block a mushrooming anti-expansion movement."

Going nowhere is not a movement.

(The new executive's subsequent recommendation that another conference be held in March to deal with the uncompleted business passed almost unanimously.)

4) The article says: **"An alternative statement of principles presented by the Martlet and several other papers was not dealt with at the meeting."**

Hardly surprising.

Put into context, this in-itself-factual statement loses most of its CUP-as-railroad implications.

The Martlet wasn't the only paper disappointed.

Also not dealt with at the conference were:

—the consitution commission report (commissions are committees struck at the conference to prepare recommendations for the conference on specific areas)

—the finance commission report

—part of the national advertising commission report

—part of the hiring commission report

—plus, I'm sure a score of other things that various people wanted brought up.

The conference, quite simply, did not finish its business. It ran out of time.

The Martlet's response, since it disagreed with the Statements of Principles and Purposes it wanted to discuss, was to declare itself "a member under protest".

That action, by itself may appear principled and, of course, made sensational headlines in **The** Martlet.

But it seems rash and melodramatic in its context:

Up till the conference The Martlet had not informed the other CUP papers of its dissatisfaction with the Statement of Principles and the Statement of Purposes for the News Service.

In spite of the fact that the former had been mailed to every paper in October and the latter had appeared on the inside cover of every news service for most of 1976. (The news service appears twice a week during the publishing year.)

And the opportunity for The Martlet to be heard was also there.

Regular fall conferences are held in each region, including the west. One of the purposes of a fall regional is to begin discussion on matters coming up at the national conference and if necessary, to prepare motions for consideration there. The Martlet didn't send a delegate.

That may be understandable given the paper's less than fantastic financial situation. But there are other cheaper methods:

One of the duities of the national office staff is to compile regular house organs (newsletters) which contain any information, position papers, notices of motion, etc. that member papers want distributed to other papers.

The Martlet made no submission on the Statement to any of the four fall house organs.

5) The article says: **"The Martlet found itself in strong opposition to what were viewed as railroading tactics by the chair..."**

As a fieldworker for the organization, I was present at the same conference and sat through virtually all the official chaired sessions.

The chairperson I observed, and there was only one, struck me as neutral. Painfully neutral at times, pointing out the options people had when they were dissatisfied with some aspect of procedure or didn't understand Robert's rules of order.

The same chairperson later received a near-unanimous standing ovation for his performance from delegates who certainly didn't agree on a number of major issues.

But the writer may be referring to the incident on the last day when The Martlet was cut off by the chair.

Here, too, the railroading charges are off base. The Martler was cut off as it went over its time limit (each paper had agreed to stay under three minutes for this discussion) and launched into a name-calling harangue of its favorite foe, the "venally-careerist" National Office (none of whom, it could be pointed out, stood for re-election).

The hisses and boos that met the Martlet from "SUPPORTERS OF THE NATIONAL OFFICE", I would offer, were a response not to the sometimes substantial content of what they said, but to The Martlet delegates' attitude.

6) Climenhaga admits in his ramblings: in the same issue:

"It is, to be honest, our own fault that we spent the entire conference in hot water. We wore what we wore to bug them, and , by golly, it worked."

I don't intend to argue with this statment, which seems to me the most accurate piece of reporting on the conference in that issue.

But the attitude expressed (in that sentence and the articles as a whole) strikes me as less than responsible.

It doesn't cost peanuts for 70 papers to send one or more representatives to a national conference. To indulge in unproductive goading and take up adversary positions at a conference is a disservice to students who are footing a good part of the bill.

The organization and the conferences exist so that papers can help each other and pool their resources to provide students with better coverage of what is happening around them.

They don't exist so that some people can play "revolutionary" while others play "fascist".

The Martlet has raised some valid points: it argues that the expansion proposal moves too fast and it wants modifications in the CUP Statement of Principles.

If it wants to be listened to, I'd suggest it remember two things: First that flinging neckties and vicious harangues in people's faces doesn't result in an attentive audience.

And second that the Martlet is one of the papers that make up the collected wisdom and resources of Canadian University Press and as such should work co-operatively and—dare I suggest—seriously with the others.

As far as its reporting goes, I'd suggest the Martlet re-read those journalistic canons it so strongly espouses for the news service: factual, balanced reporting and the separation of fact from interpretation.

[continued on 4]

SOLIDARITY, PREPAREDNESS, RESOLUTENESS AT REGIONAL CONGRESS IN CALGARY CALLED FOR BY PRESIDENT LEE RANKIN

Dear WRCUPPERS,

In preparation for our February get-together I though I might initiate discussion on a couple of things which need to be resolved before CUP 39½

During CUP 39, it became clear to those involved in WRCUP caucuses that 1) there was little consensus on what a bureau ought or ought not to do and 2) the establishment of one regional bureau on the prairies was eminently unfeasible for a variety of reasons.

WRCUP delegates to the conference expressed doubts about the value of a bureau per se, especially considering the fee increase which will accompany any additional CUP expansion.

Delegates also voiced the opinion that bureaux could be technical resource centers rather than primarily the foci of news exchange in an area. It was noted that the minutes of CUP 38½ contained a description of bureau chief duties which incorporated more than mere news exchange.

The papers in B.C. this year have seen the primary function of the bureau as the exchange of news. If a Vancouver bureau is adopted for next year, I suspect it will continue on similar lines as this year.

The concept of a bureau as a technical resource has some merit although I have some doubts as to how effective a "resource person" can be while remaining relatively static. It seems to me that some of the jobs itemized in the CUP 38½ minutes could be done by fieldworkers.

Although I feel bureaux are primarily effective as a tool of improved news exchange, these other considerations are worth exploring at the WRCUP conference.

I would like to suggest one proposal which we could discuss. Since it has been generally agreed that since 1) one bureau could not serve the prairies as a whole, and 2) the prairies would like to see a bureau provide technical assistance and 3) WRCUP, which is reluctant to support any kind of expansion, would not support three fulltime bureaux (i.e. one in Vancouver, Calgary and Winnipeg), I propose that we convert one position of fieldworker to that of bureau chief to work out of Calgary or Winnipeg.

Instead of 2 fieldies and 2 bureau, WRCUP would have 3 bureaux and one fieldie—a net increase of only one position. And if we emphasize technical assistance as a priority of the two prairie bureaux then the elimination of one fieldworker will not be critical.

Although I feel that the bureaux will evolve into news exchange centers, at this stage of the game my proposal will allow us to have our cake and eat it too! In a nutshell, as papers become more technically competent they will 1) see the value of news exchange and 2) be better able to use CUP copy effectively.

Other things which need discussion at our Regional include:

a) The CUP statement of principles, is it relevant, useful, how binding should it be on CUP members?

b) hiring of CUP personnel for the fall, whether it be three bureau chiefs and one fieldie or one bureau chief and two fieldies, two fieldies and two bureau chiefs aor four fieldies or four bureau chiefs or none of the above.

c) is WRCUP a region or is it actually two regions? is co-operation compatible with self-determination?

d) the possibility of postponing WRCUP hiring until after the March plenary so we will know what positions will be open come fall.

It might be an idea if concerned papers would put together position papers on the role of CUP before the conference because most discussions on the issue are hampered by a lack of any solid criticism or suggested alternate plans of action. In other words, I don't want to hear "the role of CUP is to defend the basic interest of students" like a broken 78 record. I want to hear constructive proposals as to how CUP, as a news co-operative, can serve whatever ends it perceives as being necessary.

Looking forward to seeing y'all at the conference I remain,

Sincerely yours
Lee Rankin,
Head Turkey, WRCUP

LEE ON ORGANIZATION

This is a position paper on position papers. Yes, it makes sense.

A position paper is the document which identifies a platform and a program. It can be a discussion paper on issues of singular importance. It also serves as a working paper for ideas, random and otherwise, that can lead to a basis for discussion. A position paper is simply the exercise of your own or your staff's thinking in (type) written form.

Committing you thoughts to paper. That would have made a hell of a lot more sense BEFORE the CUP 39 conference. As it turned out, any thinking occured mainly when delegates were on their feet. Although commendable, the practice is not exactly sound. It is illogical.

Positions taken up by various papers, factions, and regions, did not arise out of careful consideration of the issues at hand. Positions evolved from apprehension and self-interest; stances came about not as a result of decisions made on the individual papers; but from a rabid and protective custody of whatever sorrowful state existed back home. Understanding was buffeted by abrasiveness, and totally eclipsed by reaction. Positions became entrenched early in the game.

Why were delegates unable to examine thoughtfully the expansion program of the organization? Or even muddle through, by coming to grips with the reality of demands on the news service? Could not the papers reach some sort of compromise in the span of one week?

No, they could not. And it is completely unrealistic to think that somehow or other they might possibly agree. Positions could not possibly be accepted, incorporated, or compromised because so few papers had any to start with. And not one region had a clearly developed plan for the maintenance and development of the organization in the coming year.

How does a newspaper staff arrive at a position on Canadian University Press? Perhaps the question should be directed at the incumbent national office staff. Certainly there was a question of leadership. Very tenuous communication with the membership throughout the year led to the inevitable dump of half-baked proposals on the conference. If the executive, as well as the papers, had discussed their problems, needs and priorities, and fleshed it out on paper, that eventuality may have been prevented.

Of course the national office should have published more House Organs a lot sooner. But did that entitle member papers to sit on their asses? What fills a House Organ if not member (and executive) positions? The national office was overwhelmed by lethargy, the members should have initiated the flow. But who even bothered to review last year's expansion? That could have been put onto paper.

CUPBEC had a proposal for a Quebec Affairs reporter apparently worked out in advance of the conference. So why didn't delegates see the rationale until half-way through the plenaries? ARCUP endorsed the bureau concept but wanted the news exchange function modified to suit endemic needs. Where was the position paper? ORCUP wanted a reporter in Queen's Park, logically enough, but lacked the gumption to say or do anything about it. And good old WRCUP, that bastion of solidarity, fell apart in shambles because the fraction that owned a regional bureau did not bother to lay down on paper just what the fuck it did for its subscribers, and the rest of the region could not deal with the shock of outside contact that would avail itself via bureaux and that nineteenth century boon to society known as the telephone. The basis of any organization is communication and in a cooperative one the process needn't be initiated from the president's desk. Communication of ideas doesn't imply any requisite of hard, cold, propaganda designed to overwhelm the membership. Communication arises from reporting the facts at hand (we should all know how to do that), and analysis of the inadequacies of the situation. You are bound to get a reaction. It can start with mutual griping - list your grievances, line up the benefits that come with CUP, what additional benefits are within your reach? - because sharing the problem often points to the cure. Suggest a remedy, even if it is half-baked. It's a damn sight better than flopping half-assed proposals on the table at Christmastime. The March plenary will require some tough decision-making; there will be no room for waffling and complaining. Get it down on paper.

Lee Rankin

MARTLET HAILED BY FIELDWORKER

Thanks to considerable newspaper experience among senior staff members, some quick-learning new staff, and a "professional" attitude, the MARTLET now enjoys a smooth-running operating and a polished appearance. (At least three of the paper's staff have had experience with community weeklies or establishment dailies and have ably transferred their abilities to the MARTLET.)

The most obvious sign is the nearly hassle-free production flow. (For more details, see fuller account after this report.)

The weekly production cycle begins Friday. Ads, editing, layout and paste-up are intelligently spread over four days. Deadlines are clear and production people (for paste-up and typesetting, both jobs receive hourly pay) are scheduled to be in the production shop when there is work to do.

The result is a sane pace that makes for a quality paper.

But immediacy isn't sacrificed. Because the three front pages are done last, late-breaking news can still make it into the paper with only a one-day lag till distribution. The best of both worlds: smooth production and immediacy.

The functions of the news room are clearly separated from those of the production shop, a direct lesson from the efficient establishment press.

The problem of segregation of news staff from production staff is there, but doesn't seem serious. Half of the production people, I'm told, also write, and regular social gatherings take place with all the staff.

There don't seem to be real staff policy meetings. Rather, the writers meet Wednesday to plan stories and pictures for the next paper and the production staff meets Fridays to do a critique of the paper just produced.

The dummies are now made in the newsroom (where they should be made). Ditto for headlines, which are now written in the newsroom **before** paste-up begins instead of after it's over.

A real headline chart makes dummies more accurate. The chart not only gives the number of characters per column for each size and style, but also indicates the vertical space necessary for one, two, and three deck heads for each style and size.

The production shop was outfitted this summer with $18,000 of new equipment: a Compugraphic 7200 headliner, a Compugraphic Computape typesetting unit (which uses the MARTLET's keyboard) plus a waxer and a processor.

The production staff (technically administered by the Alma Mater Society) also does paste-up and design work on contract for outside businesses. 75 percent of the profits made go into the Martlet budget. A four person "Design Group" specializes in ad design and does some fine work, which, for financial reasons, sadly is directed mainly at ads, though fancy layout for features is a possibility for the future.

Financial hassles are bothering the paper as a result of buying the new equipment and of selling the old.

When the MARTLET closed the lease they had on their Singer Frieden typesetter and headliner, not only was there a $2000 fee, but the fine print on the lease (which the paper hadn't kept) said that the processor and waxer were part of the deal.

The purchase of the production equipment was part of a binge by the AMS in which a lot of capital expenditures were made in a short period: also draft beer equipment for the pub, and an addition to the student union building.

Combined with a shortfall in the expected number of students this year, the AMS can't afford much more than the $10,000 subsidy the MARTLET gets. As a result, editor David Climnhaga has written to CUP-OTT asking for a reduced travel pool and conference fee.

The MARTLET has an entire batch of columns that run every week: from sports to satire to muck-raking to politics. They are generally well laid-out, well written, and probably, well read. One especially (called **Zazie**, an entirely understandable pseudonym) digs deep into intra-departmental muck, slime and skeletons and has reportedly raised the ire of many a faculty member.

PRODUCTION CYCLE

mmmmmmm....smooth.....

Deadlines, typesetters and production personnel are **co-ordinated**. There was a serious effort at the beginning of the year to make production work as smoothly and efficiently as possible and it seems to have paid off.

The typesetters are scheduled according to the ad and copy deadlines. More production people are scheduled for busy times—after some typesetting has accumulated. It doesn't work out perfectly of course: some people's classes still interfere with the schedule. So some time slots have a few extra people, while others are a bit short. But it's definitely a far more rational system than many papers have ever had.

The accompanying chart shows how the MARTLET has spread the bulk of the work over 4 easily-paced days.

The paper is printed on Thursday. Work begins almost a week in advance: On Friday, the ads from the Friday ad deadline are designed, typeset and pasted up. Any uncompleted ones are done on Monday.

The first copy deadline is Monday, which allows the typesetters to start on some copy almost immediately after finishing the bulk of the ad copy and heads. No dummies or paste up of actualy pages is done Monday.

The second copy deadline (and simultaneous final ad deadline) happens Tuesday at noon. This brings all meterial for pages 4 and up in the newsroom and /or the production room.

Which allows the staff to make the important decision: how many pages can we afford with this many ads? Once that's decided, the next step is measuring and editing the copy. This is done with the line count (using the estimated number of characters to give the final length of the typeset story), but often, because of handwritten copy, the measuring has to await the typesetting for an actual measurement. (It's no problem because there is enough slack time designed into the process.)

With the measurements, the dummies can be made. At the completion of that step heads can be written. All the information

[continued on 4]

FIELDWORKER'S NOTES

Most of the western region caucuses at the national conference centered around the priorities of regional bureaus if they are set up in the different parts of Canada.

Some papers argued strongly for a technical resource co-ordination function: a person in an office who would maintain technical files, keep track of fieldworkers, (a kind of field-working dispatcher) and also keep track of people's area of expertise to help in arranging staff exchanges between papers.

Others argued for a news-centered bureau (much like the ones now operating in B.C. and Quebec) which would be primarily concerned with sending stories between papers, keeping in constant contact with papers about what issues were being worked on, providing advice on how to approach stories, rewriting when necessary, making sure stories get filed to Ottawa.

Unfortunately, it took until almost the last day of the conference before we realized that both functions were actually approved as valid ones when the concept of regional bureaus was passed in principle at last year's conference.

As a result of this leap in understanding, WRCUP proposed a motion for the entire conference to allow regions to set priorities for their bureaus, which passed overwhelmingly.

(Unfortunately, the conference never got around to reconciling this motion with one defining the purpose of bureaus as 'disseminating, co-ordinating, and originating news''. That will be one of the points the plenary in March will have to consider.

SALLY MACKENZIE NEW FIELDWORKER

Sally MacKenzie of the SOUNDER was elected fieldworker to replace Don Thomson, who resigned during the conference in protest over what he considered misplaced priorities expressed at the conference.

MEMBERS BOARD UNCHANGED

The Youthstream commission voted against amending one of the requirements for membership on the Youthstream Member's Board as WRCUP had twice requested.

(The requirements the commission was recommending included one that barred representatives who had graduated from their paper from sitting on the board. The region had argued against this requirement at its October conference because delegates felt that the region should be able to elect anyone it trusted to serve on the board. The two current reps, Bob Tennant and John Bowman both fell in that category, having graduated from their papers during their terms.)

But during the discussion of that recommendation by the conference, WRCUP managed to convince delegates that an amendment was in order. Unfortunately, problems in other parts of the motion caused it to be sent back to the commission for re-drafting and the amendment was never formally adopted. The whole motion will probably be submitted again at the 39.5.

PRAIRIE REGION STILL DISCUSSED

The caucus spent a small amount of time discussing the prevalent practice at the conference (by western papers and others) of considering the prairies and B.C. as two separate regions.

This stemmed from the discussions of a ''prairie bureau'' and from the division of fall fieldworking (more-or-less) along the rocky mountains.

But the caucus decided to condemn this practice until the western region as a whole decided it wanted to split into two separate regions, a discussion that was tabled until the spring regional caucus.

PRIORITIES GIVEN TO SOME PAPERS

Because of the large amount of time spent on other issues, fieldworking priorities and schedules were never discussed by the caucus in more than superficial detail.

A list of papers needing the most help was drawn up: COURIER, GLEANER, NAVIGATOR, SWORD, NUGGET, REFLECTOR, QUILL, SHEAF, CARILLON.

But the amount of time to be spent on various activities (technical help, reporting, discussions re the upcoming plenary, etc.) was never discussed.

So, as the conference wound up, it was left for the fieldworkers (Nick Smirnow (me) and Sally MacKenzie), with help from regional President Lee Rankin and input from a few other papers to work out a schedule and priorities.

We arranged first of all, to take care of the Manitoban, which, though it isn't in trouble, is rather upset about not having seen a fieldworker for considerable time.

ARCUP fieldworker Sue Johnson and ORCUP fieldworker Dave Colburn were both prepared to stop for a couple of days in Winnipeg on their ways back east. Everything was arranged, but when Dave called to confirm a couple of days later, he was told the Toban couldn't really use the help now as much as they could in a month or so.

FILING SYSTEM PROPOSAL

One of the priorities I've decided will be appropriate for me is putting the information and files I have into a coherent order.

Two reasons: First, since my fieldworking term runs out in April, it makes sense to leave behind any important information I've collected.

And second, doing so will in large part fill the needs that some prairie papers (Carillon, Sheaf) expressed at the conference for technical resource materials.

The material I'll put together will fall into the categories approved at the 38th conference for regional bureau files:

TECHNICAL FILES: newspaper how-to (see list included) I managed to complete this system shortly after the conference, though all the categories are by no means complete.

CONTACT LIST. Names and numbers of people and telephones in my contact book and the conference contact list. This has to be done every year anyway, to allow papers to get in touch with each other and to allow fieldworkers and bureau chiefs to stay in touch.

DOCUMENT FILES. CUP services, conference materials, regional minutes, documents, position papers, etc. This one shouldn't take long and has to be done anyway to give me access to the materials I carry around.

ARCHIVES. All the papers I've collected from B.C. These should be filed at the regional bureau. This one gets low priority, as it can wait.

FIELDWORKING MANUAL. Tips for future fieldworkers. The fieldworkers at the conference decided this was something that should be added to by every fieldworker before they leave CUP. Otherwise important expertise will continue to get lost, and future fieldworker effectiveness will suffer. First step in this one is easy: when Sally and I discuss fieldworking in mid January we'll simply take copious notes.

THE EFFECTS ON REGIONAL BUREAU PRIORITIES.

The suggestion for a resource centre function for a bureau is a good one. But so is that of co-ordinating news exchange.

With the above filing systems set up, adding to them or responding to requests for information should be a considerably easier task, making it possible for the bureau to perform both functions instead of only one or the other. While fieldworking, I've found it necessary to have access to much of the same information that a regional technical resource centre would need.

It will be much simpler for me to take my already existing files (gathered with the help of several other compulsive filers) and whip them into shape than it would be to start again from scratch.

SEND INFO.

If your paper has any information that could be of use to other papers (I.E. almost anything that's of use to your paper - things that are specific, like budgets, are good too, as examples) send it to Nick Smirnow, 29 west 6th ave., Vancouver B.C.

LAST TURKEY UNTIL CALGARY

There won't be another turkey til after the Calgary WRCUP conference.

But don't let that deter you from writing position papers in preparation for the conference.

Just send them in to CUP-OTT for inclusion in forthcoming House Organs. (A copy to the GAUNTLET would ensure that we'll have a copy to run off for the conference in case any production or mail slowdowns hamper the house organ.

Will it be your paper? Who'll do the next turkey? Only you know for sure.

GAUNTLET CALLS FOR XEROX PREPARATION

There will be a Xerox machine available for the WRCUP Conference.

If you have any position papers, would you please mail these to us as soon as possible so that we may copy them in advance, and be able to hand out copies to members attending. If you cannot mail your papers, please bring them with you and give them to us for copying as soon as possible after your arrival for the conference. This will enable us to give copies to members in advance, so that they may read them before the matters are discussed.

MARTLET EFFICIENCY

...from 3

about a page (including heads, cutlines, stories, photos or graphics) is stapled together and tacked onto a board in the production room. Stories are numbered on the dummies, rough copies and final copies, so the risk of losing things is reduced.

So, by Tuesday evening, pages 4 and up are completed. Because heads were written in the newsroom, they could be made while typesetting was happening: result, no waiting around.

Wednesday is the final deadline: (ads can be bought up to this time too, but only for a 50 per cent surcharge. And don't laugh—the MARTLET has already had one customer.) Major news stories being finished up, hot items from the bureau are all gathered up.

Because there are only three pages to do, the process of editing, dummying, typesetting and pasting up takes only from noon to 4 PM. (And because that morning, pages 4 and up were double checked for typos and crooked heads, no time is wasted.)

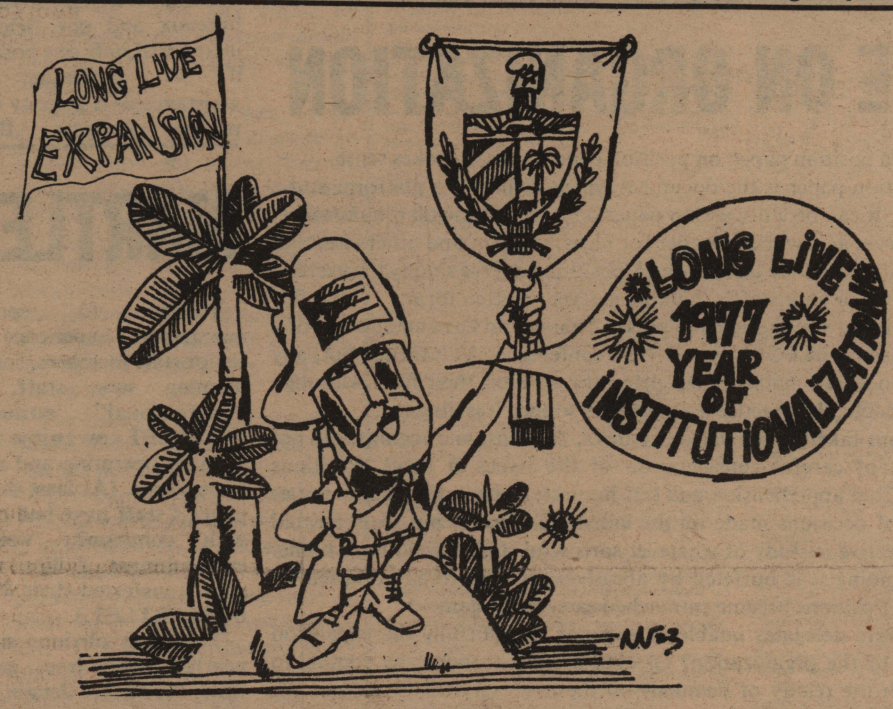
The five o'clock bus takes the paper flats on a 200 mile trip to the only union printer on the island and it's printed first thing Thursday morning. A Martlet staffer arrives in a rented van (obtained free for a regular ad in the paper), picks up the bundles and distributes the paper on campus by 5 PM or earlier.

SOME POINTS TO NOTE.

No nervous breakdowns. There aren't any 2 am press nights, not even very many 10 PM ones. Which means, people can study, swim, socialize or even sleep in addition to putting out the paper.

Immediacy. The paper doesn't have to go on the Wednesday evening bus if there is either a serious problem or a good story coming very late. The paste-up can go on till 5 am, at which point the paper flats would get driven to the printer, still in time to be printed. That would mean a lag time of only 8 or 10 hours of lag. (Papers who are closer to their printers, if they had this system, would have even less lag time, because they wouldn't need the five hour round trip to deliver and pick up the paper.

Crisis prevention. If anything does go wrong, it only means working a little faster or a little longer. That means a MARTLET **emergency press night is like many papers' regular** press night. Smirnow



CHINESE

...from 2

seriously,'' he said. '' We want this to be resolved as quietly as possible.''

CUP's Ottawa headquarters has received two calls from the RCMP but have no further knowledge of the incident which apparently developed out of idle talk at a party down the hall from the consulate.

In the CUP weekly house organ issued Tuesday, bureau chief Kris Klaasen sent out a plea to the guilty party to comply with the RCMP request for a quiet surrender of the plaque. Ken Simons

SMIRNOW

...from 2

It surprises me that in an issue already clogged with advertising, Martlet readers are given plenty of questionable interpretation and even a fashion report on conference delegates, but so little accurate information with which to judge those interpretations.

In peace,
Nick Smirnow
Western Fieldworker
Canadian University Press